

SCMS Legislative Committee

Meeting Minutes – 3/4/08

The Seminole County Medical Society Legislative Committee (LC) met on 3/4/08.

Members in attendance:

Richard Bragg, MD
Frank Clontz, MD
Glen Davis, MD
John Robertson, MD

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM. The following was discussed:

1. Legislative Committee leadership & membership — Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Josh Helman, MD, and Sam Omar, MD, could not attend the meeting. Dr. Bragg accepted Dr. Davis' offer to also Co-Chair the Committee this year. Dr. Davis will re-contact the other members of the Committee to make sure they remain willing to serve on this Committee, and look for others willing to help.

2. Legislative Committee purpose — the Committee re-adopted the “Legislative Committee Purpose” currently outlined on the SCMS website (see http://scmsociety.typepad.com/legislative_page/main/).

3. The SCMS 2008 Legislative Agenda — the Legislative Committee had not formally approved a SCMS Legislative Agenda before the 2008 Florida Legislative Session began today. SCMS will support the 2008 FMA Legislative Agenda, which is posted on the SCMS website.

4. The 2008 Florida Legislative Session —

Priority issues for SCMS include:

- Increasing Medicaid reimbursement — to Medicare levels; unfortunately, given the Florida budget crisis this year there is not a lot of hope this will be accomplished.
- The FMA Managed Care Bill — HB 405 & SB 1012; to force insurers to honor assignment of benefits, reduce their “look-back period” (currently 30 months), and eliminate silent PPOs. These bills have already passed through the first Committees in both the House and the Senate (for more information, see http://scmsociety.typepad.com/scms/files/dscms_er_access_white_paper.pdf).

In addition, a full listing of healthcare-related bills was distributed and discussed (see http://scmsociety.typepad.com/scms/files/dscms_legislation_33084.pdf). This listing is posted on the SCMS website, and includes links to legislative website listings for each bill and information distributed by the FMA about specific bills. The listing is to be kept up to date throughout the Legislative Session.

5. Tallahassee visits — no SCMS Tallahassee visits have been scheduled so far this year, although Dr. & Mrs. Davis are scheduled to be in Tallahassee on March 18 – 19 to lobby with the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians. There was still interest among the Committee members to have a delegation specifically from SCMS go to Tallahassee this year, if possible. However, the Committee also recognized that it may be too late to try to schedule anything at this time. Dr. Davis will check with the FMA to see if it would be worthwhile for us to come up; and if so, the best possible dates.

6. Key Contacts — Key Contacts are SCMS members who are assigned to a Seminole County legislator for the purpose of developing a relationship with that legislator over time. The Key Contact program is crucial for SCMS legislative effectiveness. The Committee re-affirmed the goal of enhancing the Key Contact program for 2008, and will work to make sure all legislators are contacted both during and after the 2008 Legislative Session.

For information, the 2007 SCMS Key Contact assignments were:

Sen. Baker	John Robertson, MD	Frank Clontz, MD
Sen. Constantine	Glen Davis, MD	Marc Silberbusch, MD
Sen. Posey	John Robertson, MD	Glen Davis, MD
Sen. Webster	Hal Pineless, MD	Glen Davis, MD
Rep. Hays	John Robertson, MD	Hal Pineless, MD
Rep. Adams	Chris Cooper, MD	Glen Davis, MD
Rep. Mealar	Chris Cooper, MD	Glen Davis, MD
Rep. Simmons	Hal Pineless, MD	Glen Davis, MD

For 2008 SCMS Key Contacts were tentatively assigned as:

Sen. Baker	John Robertson, MD	Frank Clontz, MD
Sen. Constantine	Glen Davis, MD	
Sen. Posey	John Robertson, MD	Glen Davis, MD
Sen. Webster	Glen Davis, MD	
Rep. Hays	John Robertson, MD	Frank Clontz, MD
Rep. Adams	Glen Davis, MD	
Rep. Dorworth	Glen Davis, MD	
Rep. Simmons	Richard Bragg, MD	Glen Davis, MD

Dr. Davis will discuss with Dr. Omar and Dr. Helman their interest in being Key Contacts; and also contact other SCMS members to see who may be interested in helping with our Key Contact program.

7. SCMS Legislators of the Year – 2007 — the Committee re-affirmed our desire to present our 2007 SCMS Legislator of the Year awards. These recognitions are valued by legislators, and a good way to gain good will with them. The legislators nominated last year were:

Legislator of the Year	Rep. Dean Cannon (help with the SCMS CBIR)
Senator of the Year	Sen. Lee Constantine (help with the SCMS CBIR)
Representative of the Year	Rep. Alan Hays (general help with our issues)

Dr. Davis will try to set up meetings with these legislators soon.

8. Legislative races – 2008 — of note already:

- Scott Plakon has announced for the District 37 seat (Rep. Simmons will be termed out). Mr. Plakon has been endorsed by the FMA for this seat. The SCMS Legislative Committee voted to endorse Mr. Plakon. Information about Mr. Plakon is in the Legislative section of the SCMS website (see http://scmsociety.typepad.com/legislative_page/scott-plakon.html).
- Senators Posey & Webster will be termed out this year, with the seats open for the 2008 election.

- Rep. Simmons has already announced his candidacy for the 2010 election to replace Sen. Constantine, who will be termed out by then. The FMA is to coordinate a fundraiser for Rep. Simmons after the 2008 November election.

9. SCMS Website — extensive legislative information is on the SCMS website. The Legislative Committee voted to create a “Legislative Corner” e-mail to send to members several times a year, with links to the website for more information. Dr. Davis will head up this effort.

10. Fundraising – fundraising for political efforts is crucial if SCMS is to maintain influence with legislators. The Legislative Committee will continue to encourage all SCMS members to support the various fundraises as they come up, as well as to be members of FLAMPAC and the 1,000 MD Club.

11. SCMS Delegates to the 2008 FMA Annual Meeting and SCMS FMA Resolutions — Dr. Bragg will assign the 2008 SCMS FMA delegates. The Legislative Committee will help solicit members for potential Resolutions to submit at the 2008 FMA Annual Meeting. An e-mail is to be sent to all members asking for input or suggestions in April or May at the latest.

12. Legislative Speakers — State Representative Dean Cannon from Winter Park (House Speaker-designate for 2010-2012) is tentatively scheduled as our speaker at our September 16th SCMS meeting, but this has not been confirmed. Dr. Bragg would like a legislator to speak at all our SCMS member meetings. Dr. Davis will contact Rep. Chris Dorworth to possibly talk at our May meeting, and be in charge of following up with Rep. Cannon.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Davis, MD
Co-Chair, SCMS Legislative Committee